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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 1. (previously presented) A method for facilitating secure handoff in a network
2 having at least first and second wireless base stations and at least one wireless mobile
3 terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

4 receiving a request from said at least one wireless mobile terminal for a handoff
5 from said first base station to said second base station; and

6 transferring security information that was originally supplied by a central security
7 node and was not used by said first base station from said first base station to said second
8 base station in response to said request.

1 2. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein said security
2 information includes a set including at least a random number, an authenticator derivable
3 by said wireless mobile terminal but not said first or second base stations, and a key.

1 3. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein at least a portion
2 of said security information is used to validate said at least one mobile wireless terminal
3 to said second base station.

1 4. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein said security
2 information transferred from said first base station to said second base station in response
3 to said request is less than all of the security information received by said first base
4 station.

1 5. (original) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein all of the security
2 information received by said first base station was received from a wireless mobile
3 terminal validation system.

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1 6. (original) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein all of the security
2 information received by said first base station was received from a third base station.

1 7. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said transferring security
2 information from said first base station to said second base station in response to said
3 request is performed only when said first base station knows said second base station
4 prior to said receiving step.

1 8. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of
2 initiating an encrypted link between said second base station and said wireless terminal
3 when said first base station and said wireless terminal were communicating using an
4 encrypted link, said second base station using said security information transferred from
5 said first base station to said second base station in initiating said encrypted link between
6 said second base station and said wireless terminal.

9. (canceled)

1 10. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 9 A method for
1 performing handoffs in a network for providing wireless communication service having at
2 least first and second wireless base stations and a least one wireless terminal, the method
3 comprising the steps of:
5 transmitting a request, from said wireless terminal for a handoff between said first
6 base station and said second base station;
7 receiving a response to said request at said wireless terminal, when said second
8 base station knows said first base station prior to receiving said request, said response
9 indicating that said second base station can engage in expedited handoffs with said first
10 base station; and
11 connecting said wireless terminal for user traffic to said second base station;
12 wherein said expedited handoff employs information about said wireless terminal
13 transferred from said first base station to second base station.

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1 11. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2 security information.

1 12. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2 security information received from a security center.

1 13. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2 security information received from a base station other than said first or second base
3 stations.

1 14. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2 security information and includes at least one from the set consisting of: (i) a password,
3 (ii) a challenge-response pair, and (iii) a challenge-response cipher key tuple.

1 15. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2 security information that is received over a network for inter base station communication.

1 16. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said connecting step
2 further includes the step of
3 initiating an encrypted link between said second base station and said wireless
4 terminal when said first base station and said wireless terminal were communicating
5 using an encrypted link prior to said handoff request, said second base station using
6 security information transferred from said first base station to said second base station as
7 part of said response in initiating said encrypted link between said second base station
8 and said wireless terminal.

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1 17. (currently amended) A method for performing handoffs in a network having
2 at least first and second wireless base stations and a least one wireless terminal, the
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 transmitting a request, from said wireless terminal for a handoff between said first
5 base station to said second base station;

6 when said second base station does not know said first base station prior to
7 receiving said request, receiving at said wireless terminal an indication that it must
8 connect to said second base station without benefit of security information supplied from
9 said first base station.

18. (canceled)

1 19. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 17 wherein said
2 information is security information is received from a security center.

1 20. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 17 wherein said
2 information is security information is received from a base station other than said first or
3 second base stations.

1 21. (previously presented) A method for performing a handoff in a wireless
2 network having at least first and second base stations and a least one wireless terminal,
3 the method comprising the steps of:

4 receiving a request, by said second base station, from said wireless terminal for a
5 handoff between said first base station to said second base station;

6 performing an expedited handoff using previously unused security information
7 when second base station knows said first base station prior to receiving said request; and

8 performing a nonexpedited handoff when second base station does not know said
9 first base station prior to receiving said request.

1 22. (original) The invention as defined in claim 21 wherein said step of
2 performing an expedited handoff includes the step of transferring security information
3 from said first base station to said second base station.